BENON ZBIGNIEW SZAŁEK

HEURISTICS AND CRYPTOLOGY IN THE DECIPHERMENT OF THE CRETAN HIEROGLYPHIC INSCRIPTIONS (A RESEARCH REPORT)

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SZCZECIN 2000

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Preface

This report contains the results of my work on the Cretan hieroglyphic inscriptions (about 2000-1650 B.C.). I have deciphered them [5, 9, 67-81, 91, 92] in the years 1977-2000 by means of simple heuristic and cryptological techniques (e.g. the technique of comparisons; see also [3, 37, 39, 43, 65, 73, 79, 86, 87]). My interpretation of the inscription of the so-called Phaistos Disk (Crete, around 1700 B.C.), which is written in Old Greek, was presented for the first time in October 1977, during a lecture given in Szczecin to the Polish Historical Society – and, a little later, in February 1978, to the Institute of History of Material Culture (Polish Academy of Science, Warsaw). In the following years I analyzed other Cretan hieroglyphic inscriptions, and published some texts on this subject in Polish, English and German (see Bibliography). My work on the decipherment of the Cretan hieroglyphic inscriptions continued until 2000.

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In preparing the English version of this book I have received advice from Mr. Adrian Fisher (EMPiK, School of Foreign Languages, Szczecin, Poland).

1. Introductory remarks.

The Cretan hieroglyphic inscriptions are associated with the so-called „Minoan civilization" (about 2600-1450 B.C.). However, their appearance (about 2000 B.C.) is believed to have been inspired by the Egyptian writing system [33]. The hieroglyphic inscriptions on seals and various clay objects (such as bars, tablets) became known to the world of science at the end of the 19th century, thanks to the work of such researchers as F. Halbherr, A. Evans, L. Pernier. The hieroglyphic inscriptions are, as a rule, very short – with the exception of the Phaistos Disk (241 recognizable pictorial signs). It is generally assumed that the language of the hieroglyphic inscriptions is not Greek, like the character of the „Minoan civilization". The Cretan hieroglyphic script is believed to have existed till about 1700/1650 B.C., when the Linear script A (and later, around 1450 B.C., Linear B) was predominantly and exclusively used. The Cretan hieroglyphic script is generally believed to be undeciphered. In this book I will deal, first of all, with the longest known hieroglyphic inscription called: „the Phaistos Disk". Afterwards I will present the results of my work associated with shorter hieroglyphic texts.

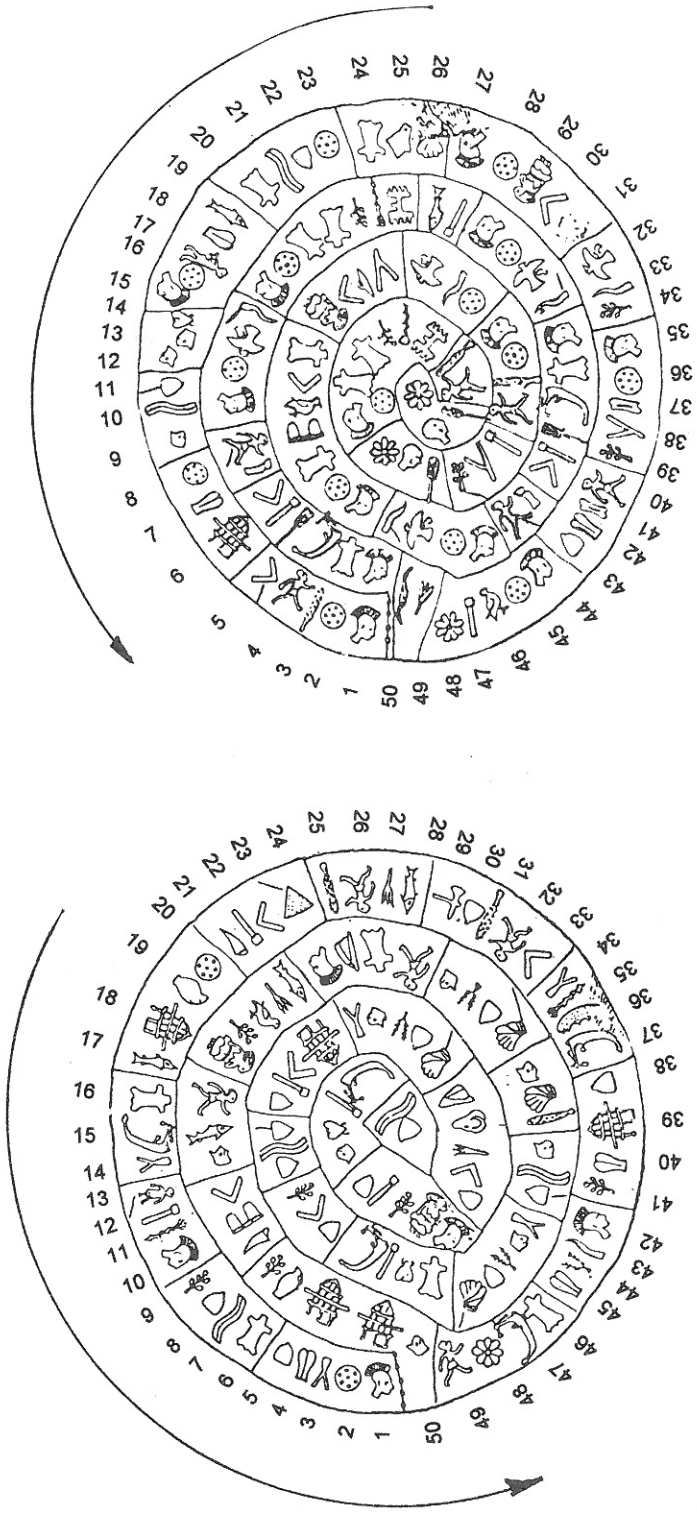


FIG. 7.

I 14 – 7 – 39 – 2 I 40 – 25 – 5 - 41 - 6 I

I 9 - 7 - 7 - 39 - 21 I 40 - 34 – 5 I

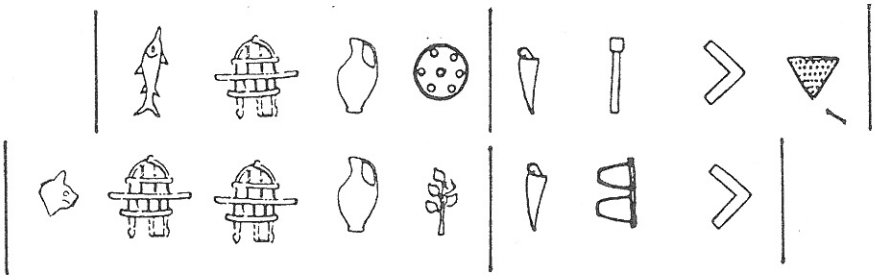


FIG. 33.

1–2—3— 4—5–6

9–10–11–6

31— 4–6

31— 4–6

1—2–19–20–6

1— 2–19–20–6

1— 2–19–20–6

25–23–21–6

1–32–25–38–6

40–25—5–41– 6

9-44–11–17–6

9–10–11–6

37–9–44–11–17–6

37–9–44–11–17–6

11–10–11–6

FIG. 34.

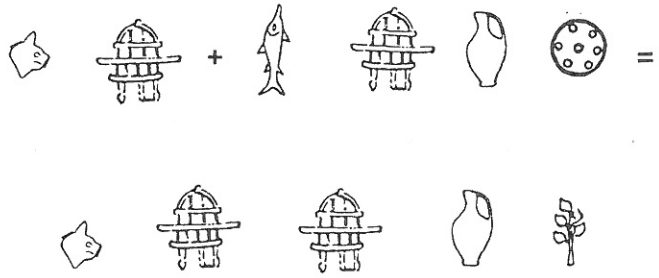


FIG. 54.

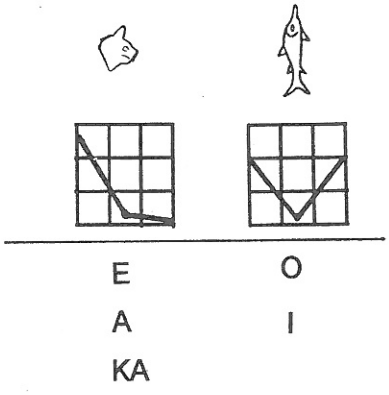
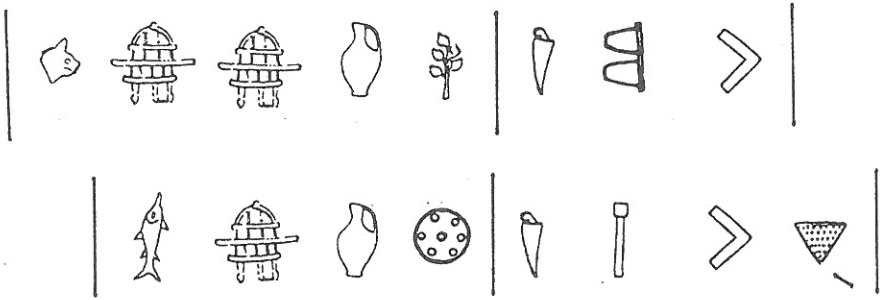


FIG. 55.



ITANOS POLIS POLUS

det.

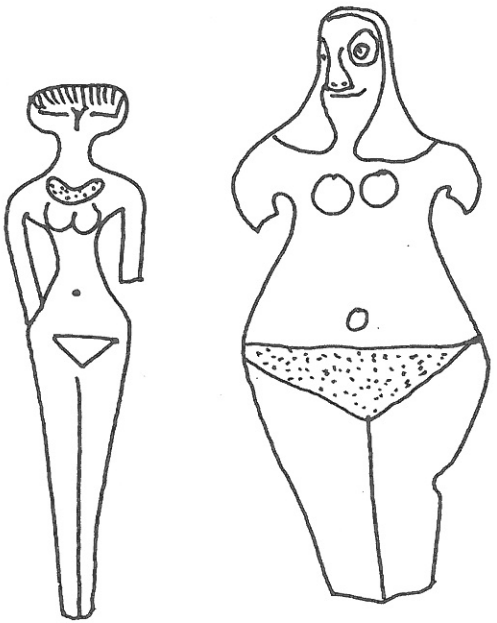


FIG. 59.

AI

HI

LA=RA

PTA

BA=PA

WE

LE=RE

PTI

BE=PE(?)

WI

LEI=REI

PTO

BI=PI

WO

LI=RI

SWA

BO=PO

WIE/IE

LWO=RWO

SWE

BU=PU

WIO/IO

ME

SWI

DI

KA

MO

SWO

DO

KE

NE

-S

DU

KO

NO

TE

EI

KTA

NU

TI

EW

KTE

OI

ZO

FIG. 62.

OW

DET.

SIDE A:

1)	AI-KTE DI-WIO-IE-S	KTA-LWO KTE	KA SWO-TE-S	KA KA-KE
2)	AI KE DIOS	TALOS KE	KAI SONTES	KAI KHALKEOS
3)	IF THE GODS/DIVINES	TALOS !	AND THE SAVIOURS	AND THE COVE-RED WITH BRONZE

1)	AI-KTE DO-RWO-WI	EW-SWO-TE KTE	EW-PE-HI
2)	AI KE TROSIN (?)	EUSOTER KE	EPIOS
3)	IF TO THE TROJANS(?)	THE GOOD SAVIOUR !	KINDLY DISPOSED

1)	AI-KTE PA-IE-(?)	PI-SWA-SWI
2)	AI KE PAIEON(?)	PITHEO/PEITHO
3)	IF (THEY) THE PAEAN(?)	LISTEN TO

1)	AI-KTE DU-NE-SWI	WIO-DU-RWO TE	AI-KTE TI-LE-PO
2)	AI KE DUNASIS	IODOROS	AI KE TELEO
3)	IF THE MIGHTY	IODOROS	IF YOU GRANT

1)	OI-MO	AI EW-EI-KO-LE-IE	ME-WIO-S	AI-KTE PI-SWA-S
2)	OMO-	EUKELOS/EUKHE	(EGO)	AI KE PITHEO/PEITHO
3)	ALL	THE REQUESTS	OF MINE	IF YOU LISTEN

1)	AI-KTE EW-EW-SWI-PTA-NU	WI-LE	AI-KTE PI-SWA-S
2)	AI KE HEPHAISTOS/EPHESTIOS(?)	PHILOS	AI KE PITHEO/PEITHO
3)	IF HEPHAISTOS/EPHESTIOS(?)	THE GRACIOUS	IF YOU LISTEN

1)	AI EW-EI-KO-LE-IE	ME-WIO-S	AI-KTE PI-SWA-S
2)	EUKELOS/EUKHE	(EGO)	AI KE PITHEO/PEITHO
3)	TO THE REQUESTS	OF MINE	IF YOU LISTEN

1)	AI-KTE EW-LEI-TI-IE-EW	PA-IE-WO-NE	PI-SWA	KTE
2)	AI KE EILEITHUIA	PAIEON	PITHEO/PEITHO	KE
3)	IF EILEITHUIA	THE PAEAN	LISTENS TO	!

1)	AI-KTE DI-WIO	RE-NE-SWI-S	KO-RI-PO
2)	AI KE DIOS	PHREN	KHREO/KHREIO/KHOREO
3)	IF THE DIVINE	(IN HIS) MIND	FOLLOWS

1)	AI-KTE EW-EW-SWI-PTA-NU	DI-WIO	KO-RI-PO
2)	AI KE HEPHAISTOS/EPHESTIOS(?)	DIOS	KHREO/KHREIO/KHOREO
3)	IF HEPHAISTOS/EPHESTIOS(?)	THE DIVINE	FOLLOWS

FIG.64.1.

SIDE B:

1)	AI-KTE WE-RWO TE	EW-SWO-TE-SWI	AI-PTA-LE-ZO-S
2)	AI KE HEROS	EU SONTES	APALEXO
3)	IF (YOU) HEROS	(OF THE) GOOD SAVIOUR S	DEFEND

1)	WE-EI-EW	WI-KTA-NO KTE	PTO-LE-IE-S
2)	(pronom.)	ITANOS KE	PTOLIS
3)	YOUR	ITANOS !	TOWN

1)	DI-WIO-OI-WI	PTI-TE DI-WIO-IE	WE-PTA-LA-EI
2)	DIOS	TETTA DIOS	APALEXO
3)	TO THE DIVINES	(TO THE) FATHER-GOD	THE DEFENDING

1)	TE KTA-LWO-SWI	AI-SWA-SWE-RWO	EW-EI-PO-WIO
2)	TALOS	AISA	EIPON
3)	TALOS	OF THE FATE	THE FIXING

1)	KA-KTA-KTA-NO-SWI	PTO-LEI-IE
2)	KATA + ITANOS	PTOLIS
3)	OVER ITANOS	TOWN

1)	KA WI-WIO	PA-SWI-TI-OI-WI	AI BU-EW-WIO
2)	KAI IPHIOS	PASI THEOS	BOUS
3)	AND STRONG	TO ALL THE GODS	BULLS

1)	KA-SWE-TE-HI-S	KA HI-DI	KA SWO-TE-S
2)	KESTOS	KAI IDE	KAI SONTES
3)	KNOWING THE YOKE	AND ALSO	AND THE SAVIOURS

1)	WE-KA-SWE-TE-HI-S	EW-KE-LE-EI	TE-IE-SWI
2)	EKESTOS	WEIKELOS	(TITHEMI?)
3)	NOT KNOWING THE YOKE	ALIKE	THE OFFERED(?)

1)	TE SWO-TE-S	TE-LE-IE-KTA	WE-KA-SWE-TE-HI-S	BU-OW-OI-IE-TE
2)	SONTES	TELEIOS	EKESTOS	BOUS
3)	THE SAVIOURS	THE BEST	NOT KNOWING THE YOKE	BULLS

1)	AI BA-SWI-LE TE	KA-KE-RE-EI	SWO-TE-S(?)
2)	AI BASILEUS	KHALKERES	SONTE(S)(?)
3)	IF (THEY) THE KING	KHALKERES	SAVE(?)

FIG.64.2.

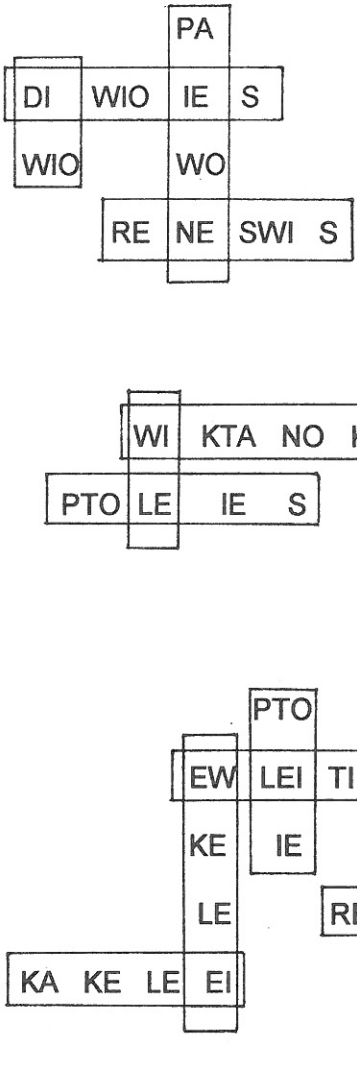

PA
DI WIO IE S
WIO WO
RE NE SWI S
WI KTA NO KTE
PTO LE IE S
AI
PTO PA KTE
EW LEI TI IE EW
KE IE WO EW
LE RE NE SWI S
KA KE LE EI PTA
NU

FIG. 71.

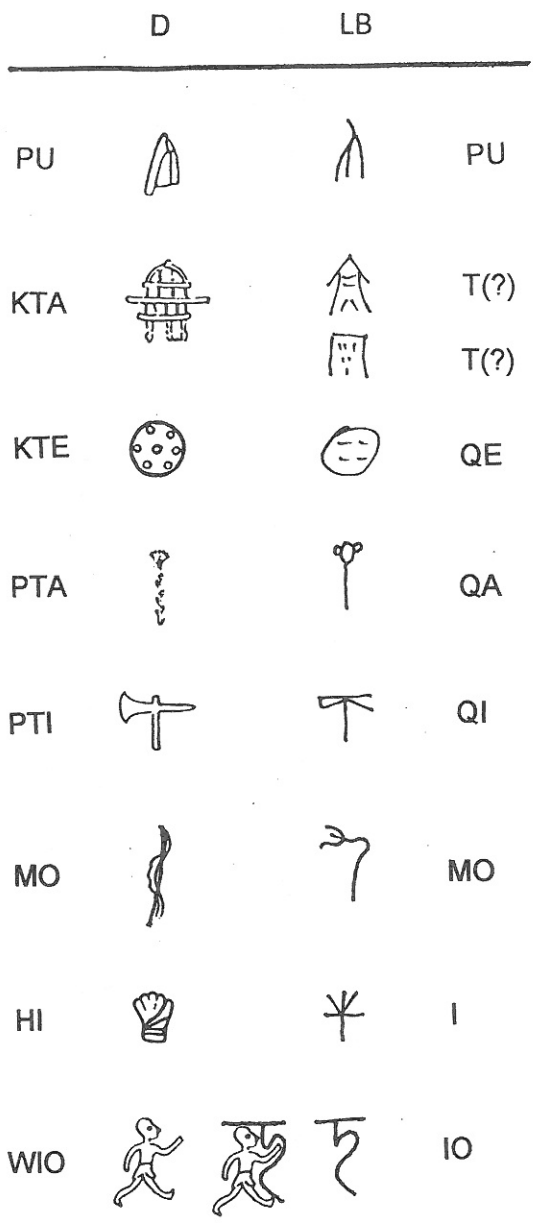


FIG. 72.

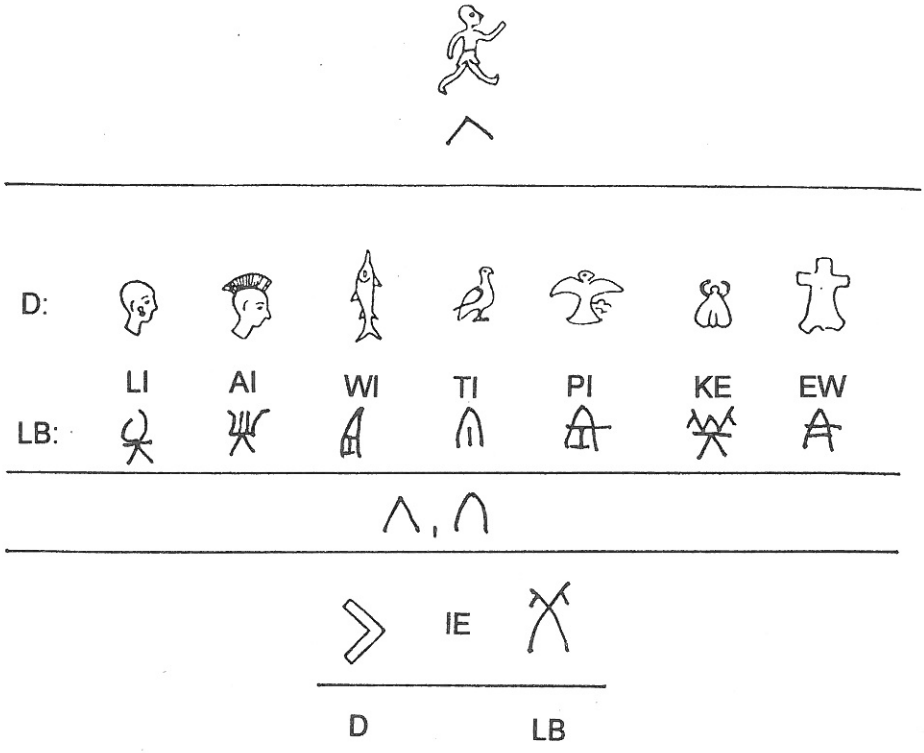


FIG. 73.

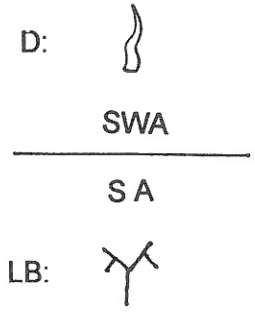


FIG. 74.

FIG. 133.

D:

H:

PA[S]

PA[N]

D:

H:

PA-SWI

FIG. 138.